

Vision

CHAPTER 2

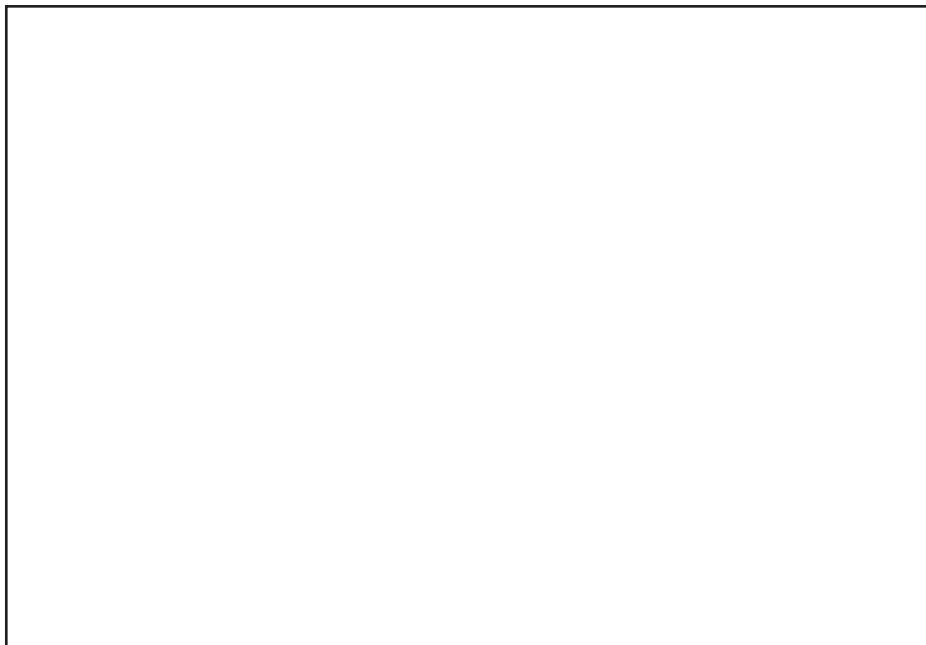
THE NATIONAL VISION

An increasing number of Americans share the vision of a national network of open spaces. The national greenways movement began during the era of the Civil War. Frederick Law Olmstead is credited with beginning the greenways movement in the United States. His “linear” open space design for the College of California (later the University of California) in Berkeley in 1865 proposed open space linkages with the City of Oakland. Although the idea was only partially brought to fruition, the concept of greenways eventually became widely accepted and was put into use in many parts of the country. By utilizing public land acquisition, the National Park Service provided the impetus necessary to further the national greenways movement. Many urban areas introduced greenways into the planning process and were soon followed

by smaller towns and villages.

The greenways movement remains vital today, due in part to the physical, social and economic problems that are present in larger urban areas and older suburbs. Each year, millions of acres of land are consumed by development and urban sprawl. Some of this new development is done without considerations for providing necessary open space or a design for social or cultural interaction. A significant amount of modern-day development has been done without attempting to achieve a sense of community.

The lack of federal resources for open space projects has mobilized people of all walks of life to champion the greenways movement. The modern greenways movement seeks to preserve linear bands of open space, which are less expensive to acquire and benefit the highest percentage of people. Greenway linkages can foster a sense of community by linking together neighborhoods and other



Photo

points of interest where people are known to interact with one another and with nature. These linkages can also provide habitat for various plant and animal species that promote ecological stability. Greenways can also provide passive recreational opportunities.

THE ILLINOIS GREENWAYS MOVEMENT

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) provides financial assistance to regional planning commissions to assist in the financing of regional greenway plans. This document is an example of that financial assistance. IDNR's regional greenway planning process requires broad based public support and input. The agency provides technical support for greenway planning and provides grant assistance for acquisition and development of greenway and trail projects. In some cases, IDNR acquires, develops and manages greenways. The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) through SAFETEA-LU has also provided significant funding assistance for transportation related projects. Many of these projects have made important contributions to greenway development and preservation in Illinois.

IDNR PLANNING GUIDELINES

The IDNR suggests to keep the following in mind when considering or planning greenway projects:

- Recreational trails should provide the people of Illinois with opportunities to enjoy physical and social activities and provide opportunities to experience the natural, cultural and scenic amenities of trail corridors.
- Trails should reflect landscapes typical of the state's different regions and should provide a pleasurable, non-polluting alternative to automobile travel for short trips.
- Trails should be economic assets to the communities they pass or intersect and should

contribute to the quality of life in Illinois.

- Greenways and trails should be developed through partnerships among federal, state, regional and local units of government, constituent organizations and trail users.
- Trails should link communities and their parks and extend from cities into the countryside. They should connect to Illinois' diverse regions and with trails in neighboring states.
- A network of trails should evolve throughout the length and breadth of Illinois, easily accessible to all Illinoisans for their use and enjoyment.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Local support for greenways is evident by the membership and activities of the Logan County Comprehensive Plan Committee and Logan County Greenways Steering Committee. The Committee membership comes from diverse backgrounds and comprises a number of organizations and agencies that support the development and preservation of open space, greenways and trails. These organizations include but are not limited to: Logan County Highway Department, Lincoln/Logan Economic Development Council, Logan County school districts, Lincoln Christian College and Seminary, local recreation and bike enthusiasts, and county business leaders. Others involved in greenways activities also include staff and officials of local governments.

The Committee has identified a series of goals and objectives to guide the development and implementation of the Logan County Regional Greenways Plan. Goals and objectives were developed for the five broad categories of (1) Conservation, Environment and Natural Resources; (2) Parks, Recreation and Open Space; (3) Implementation, Management and Coordination; (4) Legal Issues; and (5) Educational Issues. The goals and objectives for each of these categories are presented below.

CONSERVATION, ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Goal

- Protection of environmentally-sensitive areas

Objectives

- Development of criteria and mechanisms for identifying environmentally sensitive areas.
- Identification of linkages between environmentally sensitive areas in urban and rural areas.
- Prioritize environmentally sensitive areas.

Goal

- A regional system of greenways that protects sensitive environmental areas and promotes conservation of habitat and endangered species.

Objectives

- Local programs and measures that encourage the preservation of existing natural areas as potential greenways, increase environmental awareness and promote sound conservation practices.
- Preservation of interconnected greenways as a means to preserve habitat and provide a buffer from human activity.

Goal

- Conservation of greenspace as a consideration in the review of development projects.

Objective

- Ordinances that require developers to dedicate resources to the park and open space sys-

tem.

Goal

- Development of additional trails and greenways to enhance natural areas.

Objective

- Identification of stream valleys, drainage ways and other bodies of water in the county's urban areas that should be protected through greenways.

Goal

- Preservation of cultural and historic areas.

Objectives

- Identification of areas that have a cultural or historical significance.
- Identification of cultural or historic sites that can be linked to greenways.

Goal

- A healthy, clean and attractive environment in which to live, work and enjoy.

Objectives

- Safe and abundant supplies of groundwater and surface waters in Logan County as sources of potable drinking water, irrigation, and industrial and recreational uses.
- Environmentally compatible use of flood-prone lands and wetlands.
- Management of non-point sources of pollution by filtering and storing storm runoff from impervious surfaces such as buildings, roads and parking lots and using vegetative ground cover to filter runoff and control soil erosion.
- Integration of open space and outdoor

recreation into community and economic development plans.

- Utilization of open space for multiple purposes through the development and/or preservation of greenways. These would include: nature and forest preserves; historic, cultural and archeological sites; public and private outdoor recreation areas and ecological sensitive habitats.
- Preservation of the identity and character of communities by enhancing natural and rural landscape settings and scenic vistas.
- The use of incentives to encourage private land owners to make wise land use and environmental management decisions.

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE

Goal

- A regional park system that provides for a variety of active and passive recreational activities.

Objectives

- Sufficient parks and open space to accommodate the needs of existing and future county residents. (recommend 10 acres of developed parkland/open space per 1,000 population).
- A reasonable number of facilities to accommodate both active and passive recreational needs.

Goal

- A regional park system that is interconnected by a system of greenways and trails.

Objective

- Public and private development of specialized outdoor recreational facilities linked to greenways and trails.

Goal

- Intergovernmental coordination for the planning of parks, greenways and trails.

Objective

- Develop a mechanism for continuing dialogue that supports regional cooperation and coordination in the planning and provision of parks and open space.

Goal

- Develop and preserve open space and recreational facilities that are accessible to all residents.

Objectives

- A plan and capital improvements program that supports the development of public and private open space.
- A process for the review and monitoring of area needs for parkland.
- Retention of open space for recreation, wildlife habitat and historical and archeological preservation.
- Preservation of a sufficient quantity and variety of open space to meet the recreational, aesthetic and ecological needs of the County.
- Environmentally compatible land uses in floodplains and areas adjacent to waterways and other natural open space systems.
- Preservation of historical sites and landscapes, the study of archeological sites and the expansion of conservation areas.
- The use of greenways to establish municipal growth boundaries and recreation corridors in order to provide a buffer for adjacent land uses. An example would be to establish buffers between farms and municipal growth areas.
- The use of creative techniques to preserve permanent open spaces such as conservation easements which maintain private property

values.

- Dedication of open space and recreational land in subdivisions.
- Development of a recreation/open space plan.

IMPLEMENTATION, MANAGEMENT AND COORDINATION

Goal

- Reservation of land for greenways as a consideration in the review of development and redevelopment projects.

Objectives

- Identification of development standards for greenways.
- Identification of potential greenways linkages.
- Restoration standards for greenways that maximize conservation opportunities.

Goal

- Reservation of land for natural areas for public and private use.

Objectives

- Dedication of land for natural areas in new developments.
- A process that encourages conservation of natural areas through innovative means such as conservation easements.

Goal

- A coordinated system of trails and greenways.
- A management entity that includes representatives from local government to promote coordinated implementation of the greenways plan.

- A process that integrates the interests of private landowners into the implementation of the greenways plan.

Goal

- A program for funding the acquisition, development and maintenance of greenways.

Objectives

- Capital improvements programming to help implement the greenways plan.

Goal

- Beautification of private development.

Objective

- Provision of parks, trails and open space in developing areas.

LEGAL ISSUES

Goal

- Utilize a variety of "legal tools" in developing or reserving land for greenways and trails.

Objective

- An evaluation of conservation districts, conservation easements, utility easements, and other mechanisms for greenways in Logan County.

Goal

- Use of abandoned railroad rights-of-way for greenways and trails.

Objective

- Cooperation and coordination with railroad companies in the acquisition of existing or future abandoned railroad rights-of-way.

Goal

- A spirit of cooperation in the reservation of land and the implementation of open space and greenways.

Objective

- A mechanism that provides an opportunity for a continuous open dialogue and exchange of information with interested citizens, government agencies, private developers or landowners adjacent to potential greenway sites.

EDUCATION ISSUES

Goal

- Public education on the benefits of greenways to the environment in terms of improved air and water quality, the local economy, aesthetics and the overall quality of life.

Objectives

- Identification of how greenways contribute to environmental preservation.
- Identification of the target audiences and methods to reach each member.